

Members of the House Judiciary Committee: Thank you for the privilege of addressing you on behalf of Senate Bill 151.

My name is Warren Hiebert. I am full-time volunteer chaplain with the Gallatin County Sheriffs Office and other Law Enforcement and Emergency Services agencies in Gallatin County and around the state.

It is my privilege to serve on two state committees that I am committed to: One is the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board where we review domestic violence cases in which someone was killed. This Board is committed to help protect families of domestic violence through legislative action and laws.

It is also my privilege to be a part of the Montana Crime Prevention Association, MCPA, of which we come before you today for funding, specifically in favor of the passage of Senate Bill 151.

In my 21 years of serving as chaplain, my eyes have been opened as never before. Through up-to-date statistics, I hope to convey to you the need for the Montana Crime Prevention Association in bringing help to the families and communities of our great state of Montana. The programs and literature we provide do make a difference. We are truly in a struggle for the lives of our children, our youth, and our families.

- (1) One in every 100 American adults is incarcerated. (The Pew Charitable Trusts)
- (2) One in every 31 American adults is under correctional supervision (The Pew Center on the States)
- (3) The US incarcerates more of its population than any other nation in the world; a half a million more than China which has a population five times greater than the US. The US is home to only 5% of the world's population, but houses 25% of the world's prison population. (Pelaez, 2008).
- (4) American spending on the criminal justice system has increased 660 percent in 30 years, from \$33 billion in 1980 to \$216 billion in 2010. ('The Prison Boom Comes Home to Roost' by James Carroll).
- (5) 75 percent of those returning from prison have a history of substance abuse disorders. (Reentry Facts, National Reentry Resource Center).
- (6) 40 percent of prison and jail inmates lack a high school diploma or its equivalent. (Reentry Facts, National Reentry Resource Center).
- (7) Nearly 80 percent of male inmates at Montana State Prison and 75 percent of female inmates at Montana Women's Prison are high school dropouts (MT Office of Public Instruction; 'Graduation Matters')

Approximately 2 million children in the United States have a parent incarcerated. The average age of a child with an incarcerated parent is 8 years. Twenty-two percent are under the age of five. Seven of ten children of prisoners will be caught in the criminal justice system incarceration cycle. (Children of Incarcerated Parents Fact Sheet).

EXHIBIT 6  
DATE 3/9/2011  
SS 151

Highlights from the MT DOC 2011 Biennial Report:

- It costs \$4.69 a day to supervise an offender on probation or parole compared to about \$94 a day at MSP (\$34,310); it costs about \$116 per day at the MT Women's Prison (MWP)(\$42,340); the average cost per day at the Crossroads Correctional Center at Shelby and at the two regional prisons (Great Falls and Glendive) is about \$73 per day (\$26,645).
- MT DOC has an annual budget of around \$194 million (approximately \$15,000 per year per offender managed by DOC).
- The top three conviction offenses committed by adults in MT are as follows:  
Males - (1) possession of drugs; (2) felony DUI; (3) theft;  
Females - (1) possession of drugs; (2) theft; (3) issuing a bad check
- American Indians represent 7 percent of the state's population, 19 percent of the male population at MSP and 33 percent of the female population at MWP.

MCPA is committed to working with our Native American communities in crime prevention, assisting them in the context of their culture to prevent crime.

By encouraging and working with people in their communities, cities, and towns, I do believe the proven resources of the MCPA can make a difference that is well worth the \$5.00 additional criminal penalty. Thank you for your time and I trust your vote.